

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of promoting plant deep root development, said method comprising:

applying *Trichoderma* spp. to a plant or plant seed under conditions effective to achieve deeper roots in the soil in a treated plant or plant grown from a treated seed than in untreated plants or plants grown from seed not treated with *Trichoderma* spp. and
subjecting the treated plant or the plant grown from a treated seed to
conditions which would not adversely affect the treated plant or the plant grown from a
treated seed but would adversely affect untreated plants with shorter roots.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the *Trichoderma* spp. is *Trichoderma harzianum*.

3. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein *T. harzianum* is the protoplast fusion progeny T-22.

Claims 4-19 (canceled)

20. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the *Trichoderma* spp. is applied to a plant.

21. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the *Trichoderma* spp. is applied to a plant seed.